

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 583

Introduced by Assembly Member Hayashi

February 25, 2009

An act to amend Section 680 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to health care practitioners.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 583, as introduced, Hayashi. Health care practitioners: disclosure of education and office hours.

Existing law requires a health care practitioner to disclose, while working, his or her name and practitioner's license status on a name tag in at least 18-point type or prominently display his or her license in his or her office, except as specified.

This bill would require those health care practitioners to also display the type of license and, except for nurses, the highest level of academic degree he or she holds either on a name tag in at least 18-point type, in his or her office, or in writing given to patients. The bill would require a physician and surgeon, osteopathic physician and surgeon, and doctor of podiatric medicine who is certified in a medical specialty, as specified, to disclose the name of the certifying board or association either on a name tag in at least 18-point type, in writing given to the patient on the patient's first office visit, or in his or her office. The bill would require a physician and surgeon who supervises an office in addition to his or her primary practice location to conspicuously post in each office a schedule of the regular hours when he or she will be present in that office and the office hours during which he or she will not be present.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 680 of the Business and Professions Code
2 is amended to read:
3 680. (a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a
4 health care practitioner shall disclose, while working, his or her
5 name ~~and~~, practitioner's license status *and license type*, as granted
6 by this state, *and the highest level of academic degree he or she*
7 *holds*, on a name tag in at least 18-point type. A health care
8 practitioner in a practice or an office, whose license ~~is~~ *and highest*
9 *level of academic degree are* prominently displayed or who has
10 communicated in writing to the practice's or office's patients his
11 or her license status, license type, and highest level of academic
12 degree, may opt to not wear a name tag. If a health care practitioner
13 or a licensed clinical social worker is working in a psychiatric
14 setting or in a setting that is not licensed by the state, the employing
15 entity or agency shall have the discretion to make an exception
16 from the name tag requirement for individual safety or therapeutic
17 concerns. In the interest of public safety and consumer awareness,
18 it shall be unlawful for any person to use the title "nurse" in
19 reference to himself or herself and in any capacity, except for an
20 individual who is a registered nurse or a licensed vocational nurse,
21 or as otherwise provided in Section 2800. Nothing in this section
22 shall prohibit a certified nurse assistant from using his or her title.
23 (2) *An individual licensed under Chapter 6 (commencing with*
24 *Section 2700) is not required to disclose the highest level of*
25 *academic degree he or she holds.*
26 (b) Facilities licensed by the State Department of Social
27 Services, the State Department of Mental Health, or the State
28 Department of ~~Public Health Services~~ shall develop and implement
29 policies to ensure that health care practitioners providing care in
30 those facilities are in compliance with subdivision (a). The State
31 Department of Social Services, the State Department of Mental
32 Health, and the State Department of ~~Public Health Services~~ shall
33 verify through periodic inspections that the policies required
34 pursuant to subdivision (a) have been developed and implemented
35 by the respective licensed facilities.

1 (c) For purposes of this article, “health care practitioner” means
2 any person who engages in acts that are the subject of licensure
3 or regulation under this division or under any initiative act referred
4 to in this division.

5 (d) *An individual licensed under Chapter 5 (commencing with*
6 *Section 2000) or under the Osteopathic Act, who is certified by*
7 *(1) an American Board of Medical Specialties member board, (2)*
8 *a board or association with equivalent requirements approved by*
9 *that person’s medical licensing authority, or (3) a board or*
10 *association with an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical*
11 *Education approved postgraduate training program that provides*
12 *complete training in that specialty or subspecialty, shall disclose*
13 *the name of the board or association by one of the following*
14 *methods:*

15 (1) *On a name tag in at least 18-point type.*

16 (2) *In writing to a patient at the patient’s initial office visit.*

17 (3) *In a prominent display in his or her office.*

18 (e) *A physician and surgeon who supervises an office in addition*
19 *to his or her primary practice location shall conspicuously post*
20 *in each of those offices a current schedule of the regular hours*
21 *when he or she is present in the respective office, and the hours*
22 *during which each office is open and he or she is not present.*